

MARVEL

1

THOMPSON
WILLIAMS
VILANOVA
ALBURQUERQUE
ROSENBERG

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

THE AVENGERS



CLETUS KASADY WAS A SERIAL KILLER SHARING A CELL IN RYKER'S ISLAND WITH A MAN NAMED EDDIE BROCK, BETTER KNOWN AS VENOM. WHEN THE VENOM SYMBIOTE BROKE EDDIE OUT OF PRISON, IT SPAWNED A NEW SYMBIOTE THAT BONDED WITH KASADY, TURNING HIM INTO THE BLOOD-CRAZED CARNAGE.

MONTHS AGO, CARNAGE TOOK OVER THE SMALL TOWN OF DOVERTON, COLORADO, PROMPTING AN IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION BY SOME OF THE AVENGERS AT THE TIME: CAPTAIN AMERICA, HAWKEYE, WOLVERINE, THE THING AND SPIDER-MAN. DURING THE FIGHT, CARNAGE TOOK CONTROL OF THE AVENGERS MEMBERS, EXCEPT FOR SPIDER-MAN. WITH HELP FROM THE PEOPLE OF DOVERTON, SPIDER-MAN FREED THE TOWN AND THE AVENGERS FROM CARNAGE'S CONTROL.

NOW EMPOWERED BY THE SYMBIOTE GOD KNULL, CARNAGE IS SETTING HIS SIGHTS ON COLLECTING THE CODICES—LITTLE PIECES OF DNA LEFT IN FORMER HOSTS—TO UNLOCK KNULL FROM HIS PRISON. ACROSS THE COUNTRY, CARNAGE AND HIS HORDE ARE HUNTING DOWN ANYONE WHO HAS EVER WORN A SYMBIOTE, INCLUDING THE DOVERTON AVENGERS TEAM...

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

THE AVENGERS

LEAH WILLIAMS & ZAC THOMPSON PLOT ZAC THOMPSON SCRIPT

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AVENGERS CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

4 HOURS
DAYS

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK.

WHEN I GREW UP, THE HORRORS OF THE WORLD SEEMED TOO MUCH TO FATHOM.

I WAS AFRAID OF WHAT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.

BUT THE OLDER I GET, THE MORE I REALIZE...

...EVERY GENERATION FEELS THAT WAY.

FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN IS TIMELESS.

AND CONFRONTING REAL TERROR IS LIKE LOSING YOUR MIND.

IT'S FACING SOMETHING THAT DEFIES EVERYTHING YOU STAND FOR...

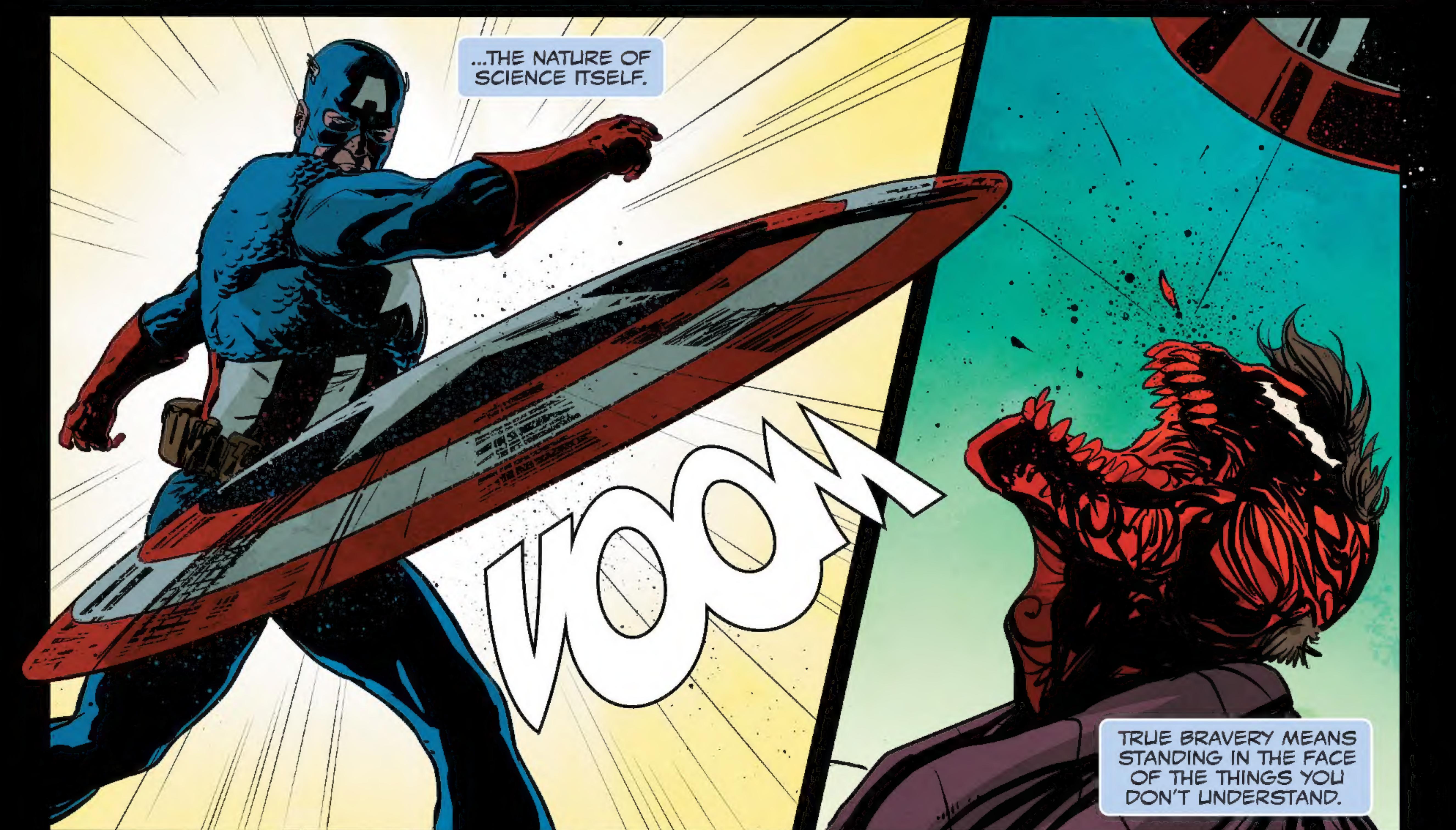


...AND CONFRONTING THE OUTER LIMITS OF YOUR IMAGINATION.

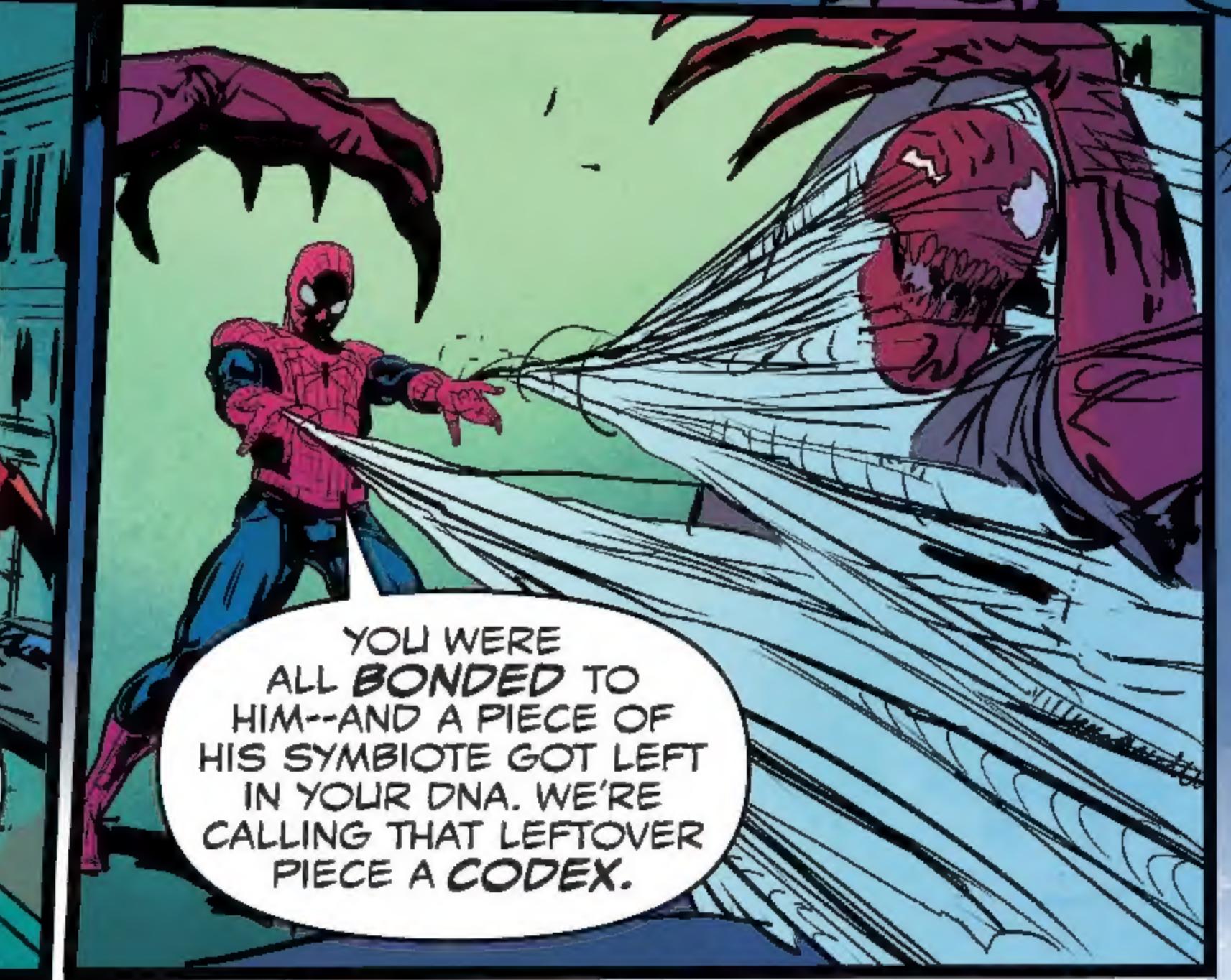


EVEN IF WHAT YOU FIND AT THE OTHER END CHALLENGES YOUR MORALS, THE RULE OF LAW OR...

...THE NATURE OF SCIENCE ITSELF.







I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT-- THEY'RE GOING BLOCK BY BLOCK HELPING EVERYONE THEY COME ACROSS BUT PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOW.

SO, HOW BAD IS IT? HOW MANY PEOPLE HAS HE TURNED?

THOUSANDS MORE THAN LAST TIME. CARNAGE'S GOTTEN HIS HANDS ON SOME NEW KIND OF SYMBIOTE--THINKS IT'LL MAKE HIM A GOD.

HE STARTED AT RAVENCROFT. BROKE NORMAN OSBORN OUT AND MADE HIM CARNAGE CLASSIC. RELEASED THE INMATES FROM MAXIMUM SECURITY TOO AND GAVE THEM ALL PARTS OF HIS SYMBIOTE.

NOW IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S CONVERTING INNOCENT CIVILIANS.

EXACTLY LIKE DOVERTON. HE INFECTED EVERYONE IN THAT CITY-- INCLUDING US.

AND IF HE'S TRYING TO FIND PREVIOUS HOSTS... WE HAVE TO WARN THEM.

CAP, IT'S... IT'S TOO LATE. HE GOT TO DOVERTON WEEKS AGO.

MADE THE WHOLE TOWN SACRIFICE THEMSELVES IN SOME RITUAL TO WHATEVER GOD CLETUS THINKS HIS NEW SYMBIOTE BRINGS HIM CLOSER TO.*

*EDITOR'S NOTE: BACK IN WEB OF VENOM: CULT OF CARNAGE, TRUE BELIEVER! --EDITOR

SO WE GET THE OTHER HEROES. STAY TOGETHER. ENSURE HE HAS TO GO THROUGH ALL OF US TO GET TO ANY ONE OF US. AND WE SAVE AS MANY CIVILIANS AS WE CAN ALONG THE WAY.

WOLVERINE, THE THING AND HAWKEYE. THINK YOU CAN REACH THEM?



VENOM AND I--

VENOM?

HE WANTS CARNAGE STOPPED MORE THAN ANYONE. AND HE'S GOT A MACHINE THAT CAN EXTRACT THE CODICES SAFELY.

GOOD THING WE'RE THE ONLY ONES LOOKING FOR THEM...

HAWKEYE WILL BE A LITTLE MORE DIFFICULT THAN THE OTHERS.

BUT WOLVERINE SEEMS TO BE A STEP AHEAD OF US.

SNIKT



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

THE SHAPE OF
THE NIGHTMARE
IS A SPIRAL.

AND THERE'S
A VOICE
WITHIN IT.

EACH WORD IT LUTTERS
STINGS THE VERTEBRAE
IN MY SPINE.

BAAARTOON...

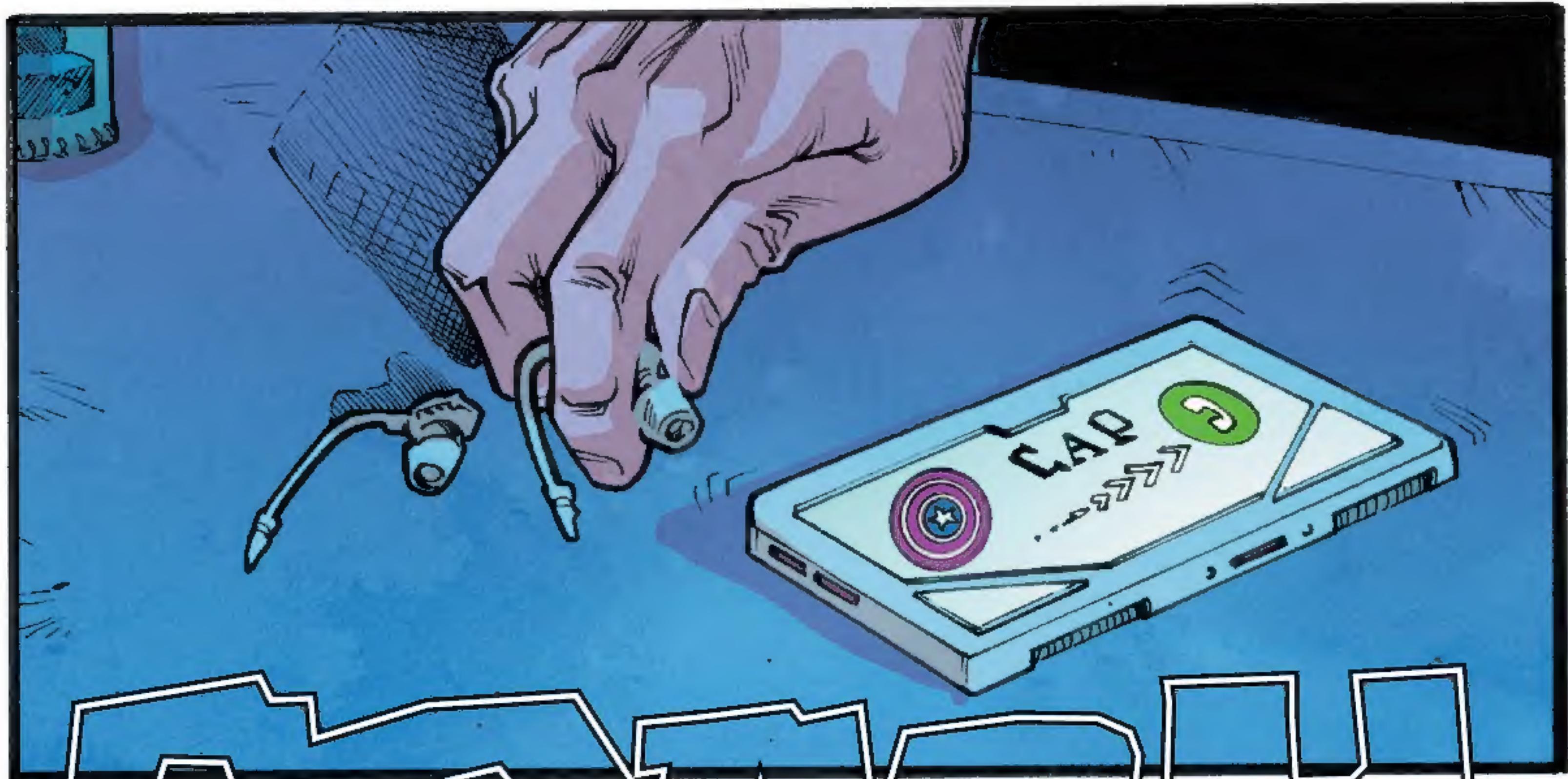
BUT I
REFUSE TO
LISTEN.

AND YET
I HEAR IT.

TELLING ME,
"GOD IS COMING,
GOD IS COMING."

CREEEEAK

BAAARRTON!



4 YANCY ST. HOME TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

TENANTS
KNOW CARNAGE
IS BACK AND TO KEEP
THEIR DOORS
BOLTED.

S'ALL I
NEED TO KNOW,
MYSELF. LET'S GO
CRUSH KASADY
INTA DUST.

BENJAMIIIN
GRIMMMMM...

IT'S NOT THAT EASY. WE'VE GOT
TO STAY AS FAR AWAY FROM
CARNAGE AS POSSIBLE.
REMEMBER DOVERTON?
IT'S LIKE THAT.

OUR PRIORITY IS
TO ENSURE CARNAGE
DOESN'T RETRIEVE THE
CODEX IN EACH OF US
WHILE ALSO KEEPING
THE STREETS SAFE.

I'M LIKIN' THE SENTIMENT,
CAP, BUT THAT STILL DON'T
EXPLAIN WHAT WE'RE GONNA
ACTUALLY DO TA CLEAN UP
THE CITY AN' SAVE
EVERYONE.

HULLURGH
MAYBE
I CAN
HELP.

THUD

THESE...THINGS
ARE ACTIN' LIKE
PACK ANIMALS.

CAUGHT THIS
ONE SNIFFIN'
AROUND
OUTSIDE.

SEEMS LIKE
CARNAGE TURNED
THESE PEOPLE
AND WE ALL KNOW
WHAT HAPPENS TO
YOUR MIND WHEN
CARNAGE IS IN
THERE.

THEY'RE ALL
TAPPED INTO HIM
AND ONE ANOTHER.
WATCHED THIS ONE
AS ITS EAR TWITCHED
LIKE KASADY WAS
SPEAKING TO IT.
THAT HIVE MIND
MAKES 'EM
DANGEROUS IN
NUMBERS.

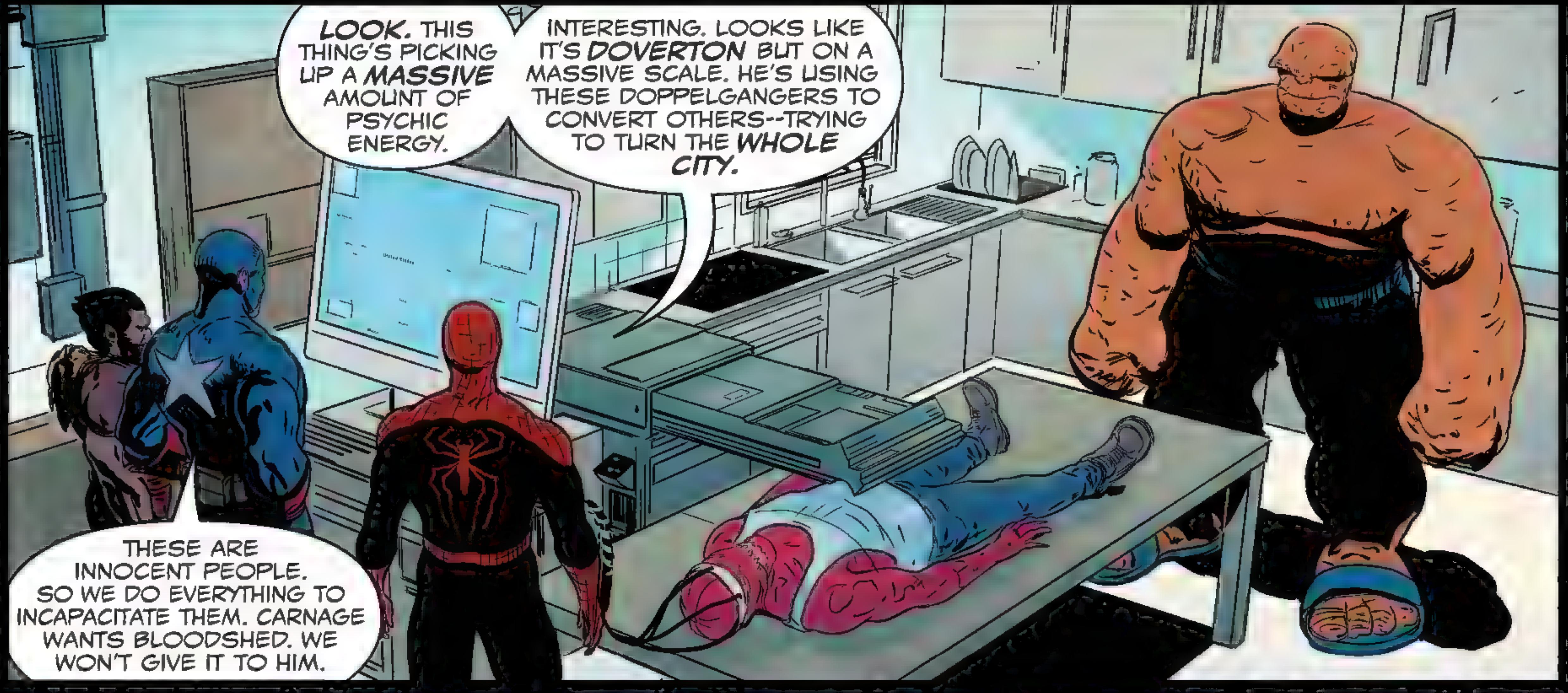
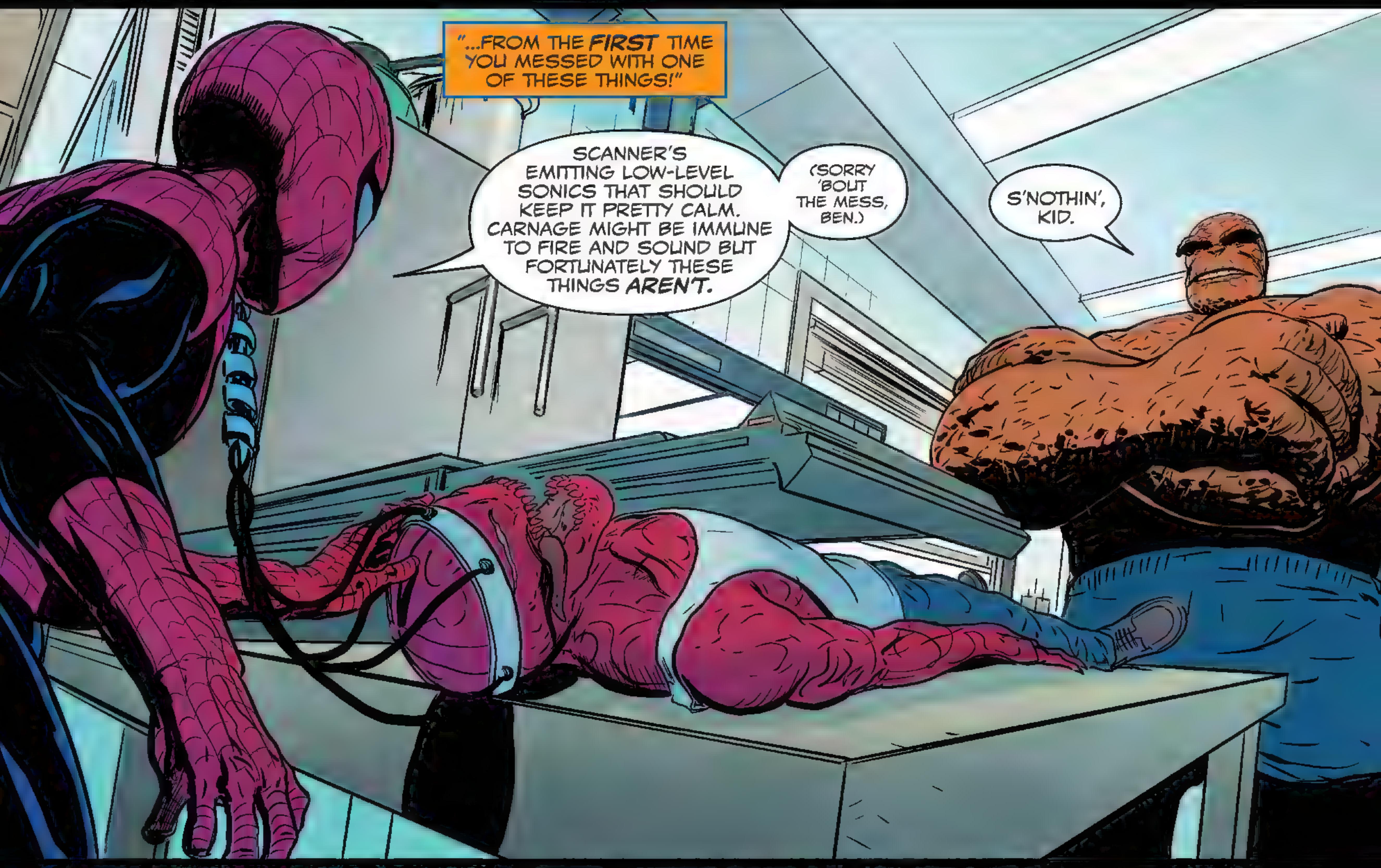
IT'S ALWAYS THE BLOODTHIRSTY
MANIAC WITH A PSYCHIC NETWORK
OF CRAZED DOPPELGANGERS...

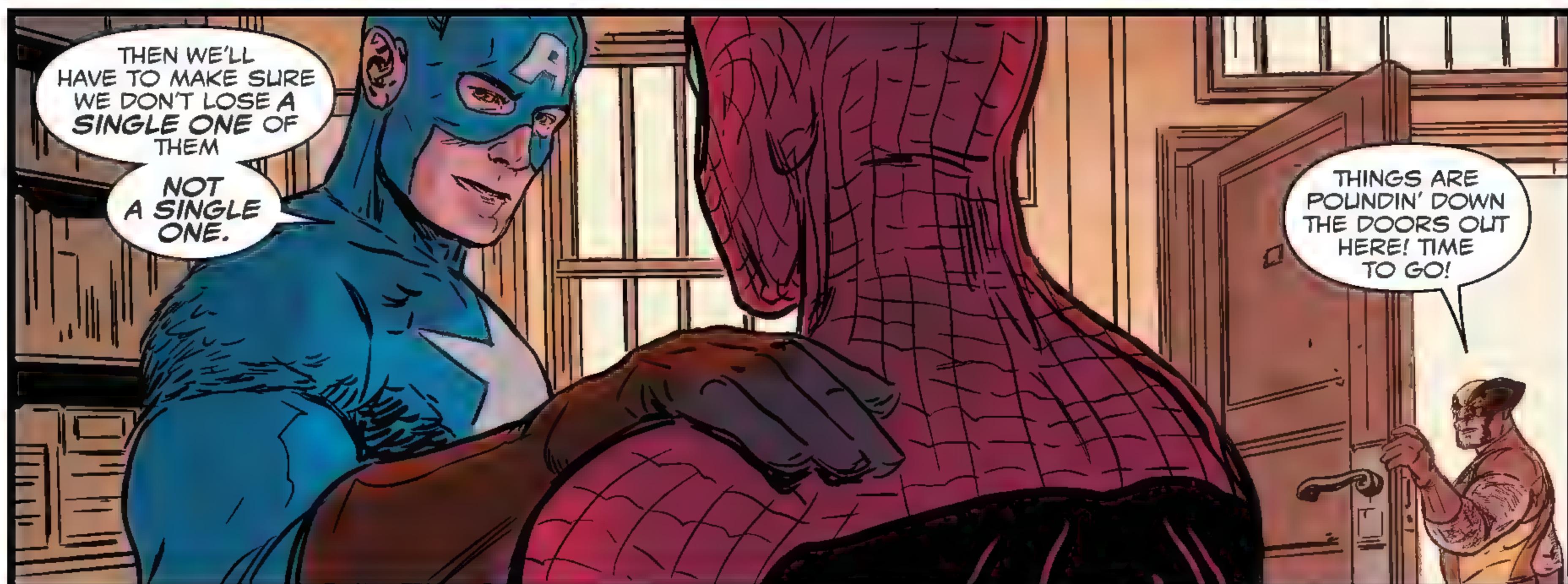
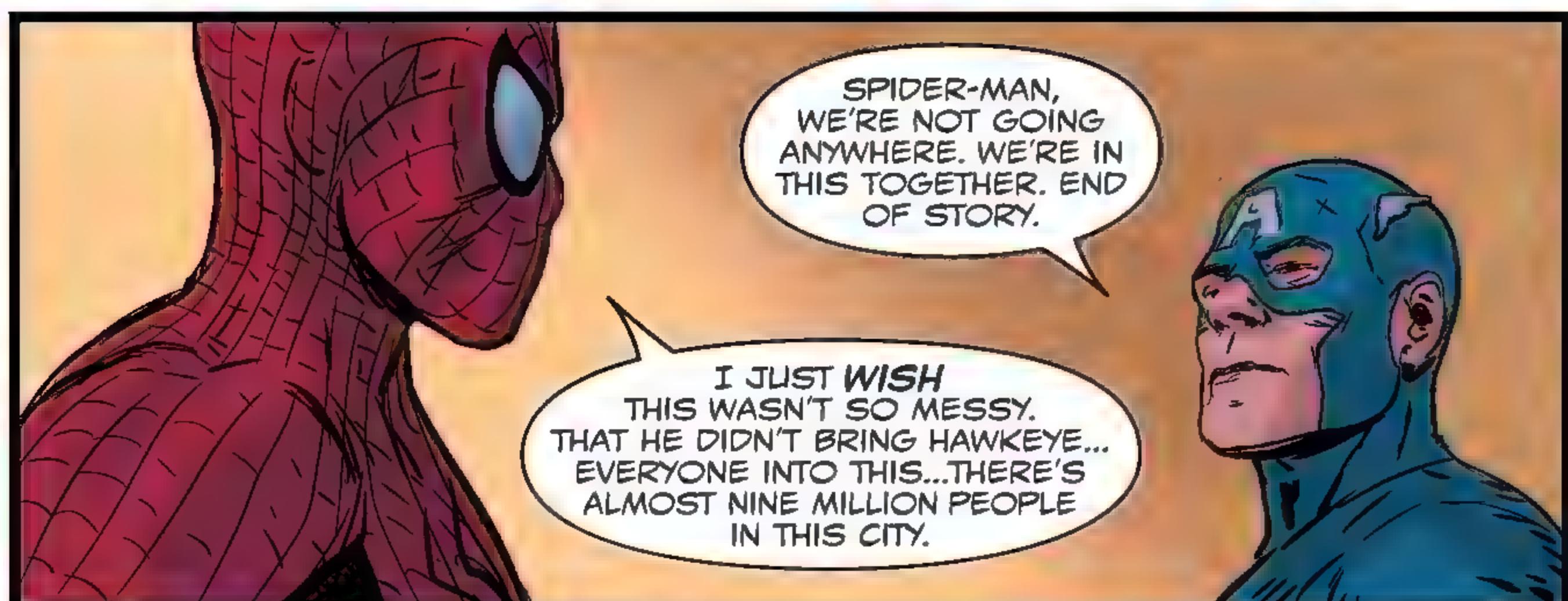
BEN, ANYTHING
IN HERE THAT CAN
TELL US MORE ABOUT
HOW THEY'RE TALKING
TO ONE ANOTHER?

HMM...
STRETCHO'S GOT
LOTSA SCIENCEY JUNK
LYIN' AROUND...

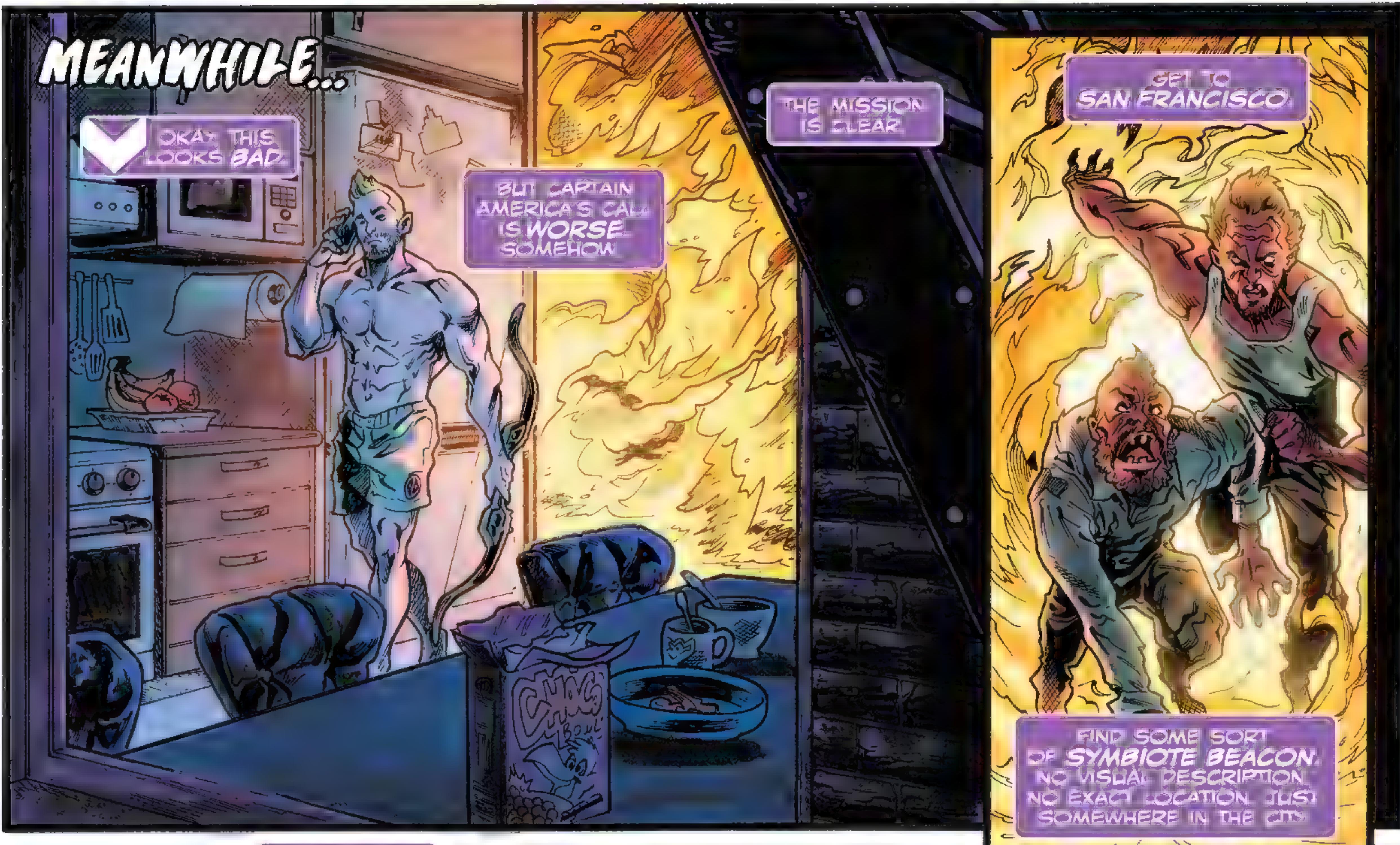
MATTER
O' FACT, I THINK
WE'VE STILL GOT
THE GEAR...





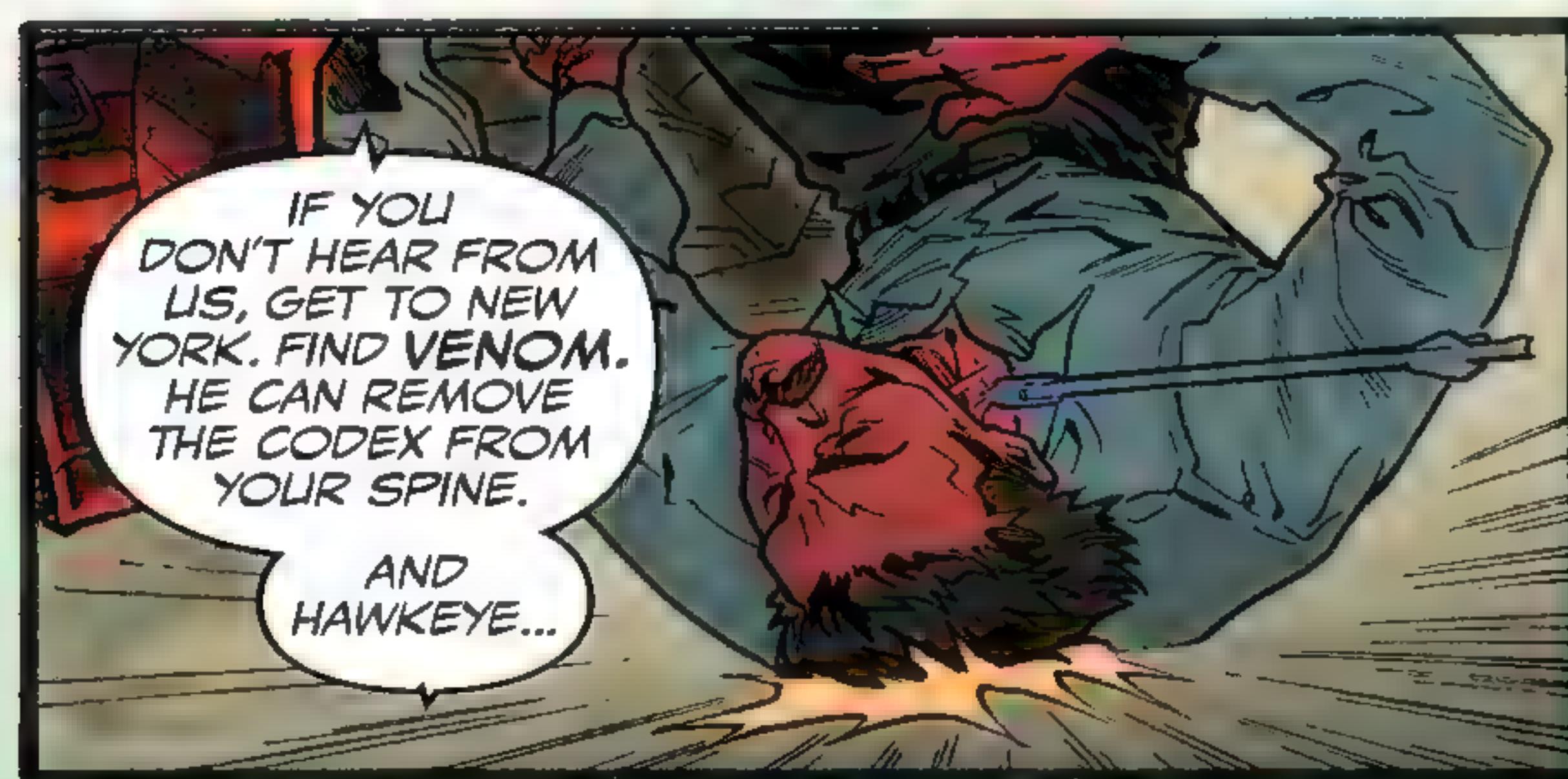
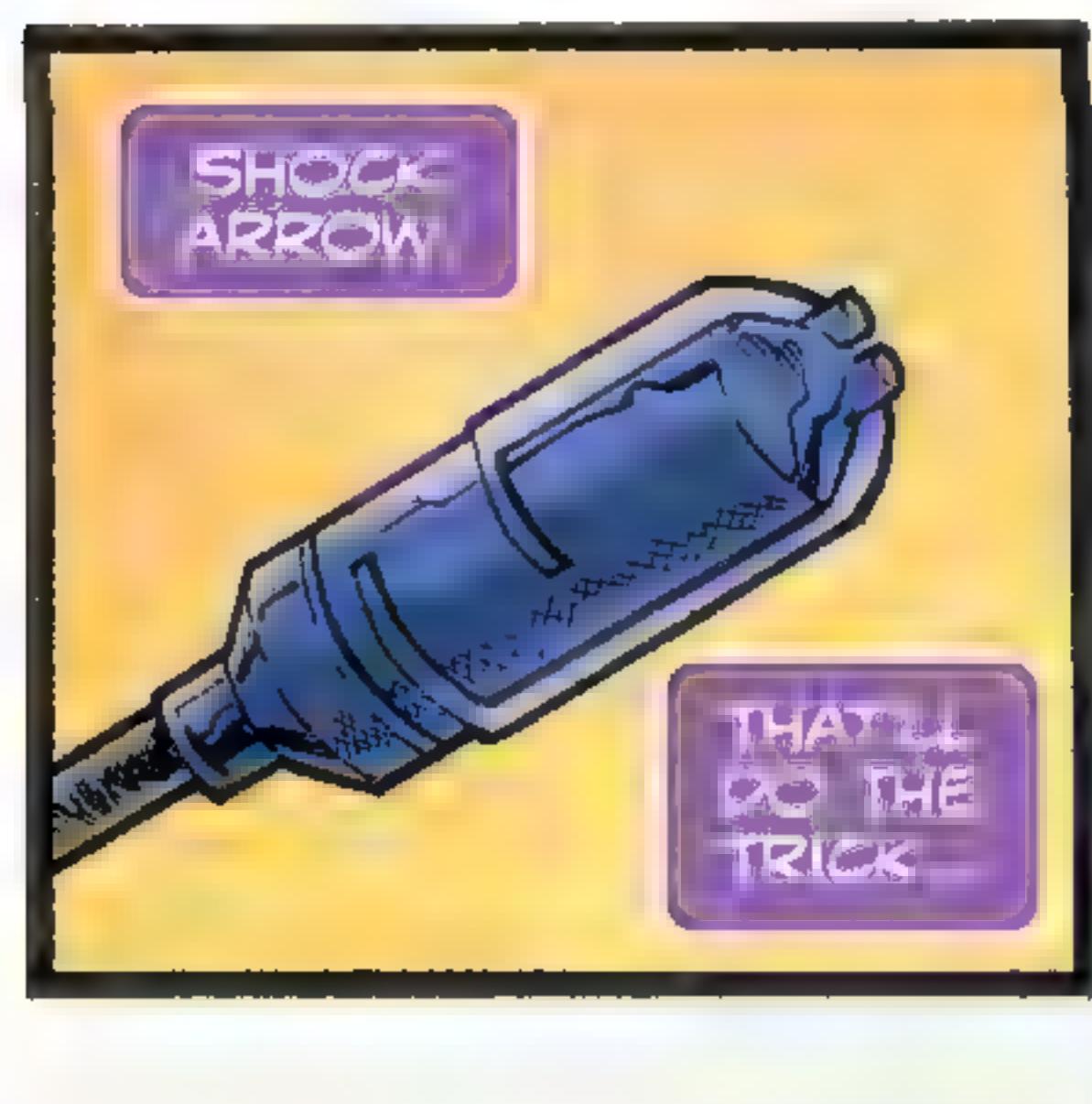
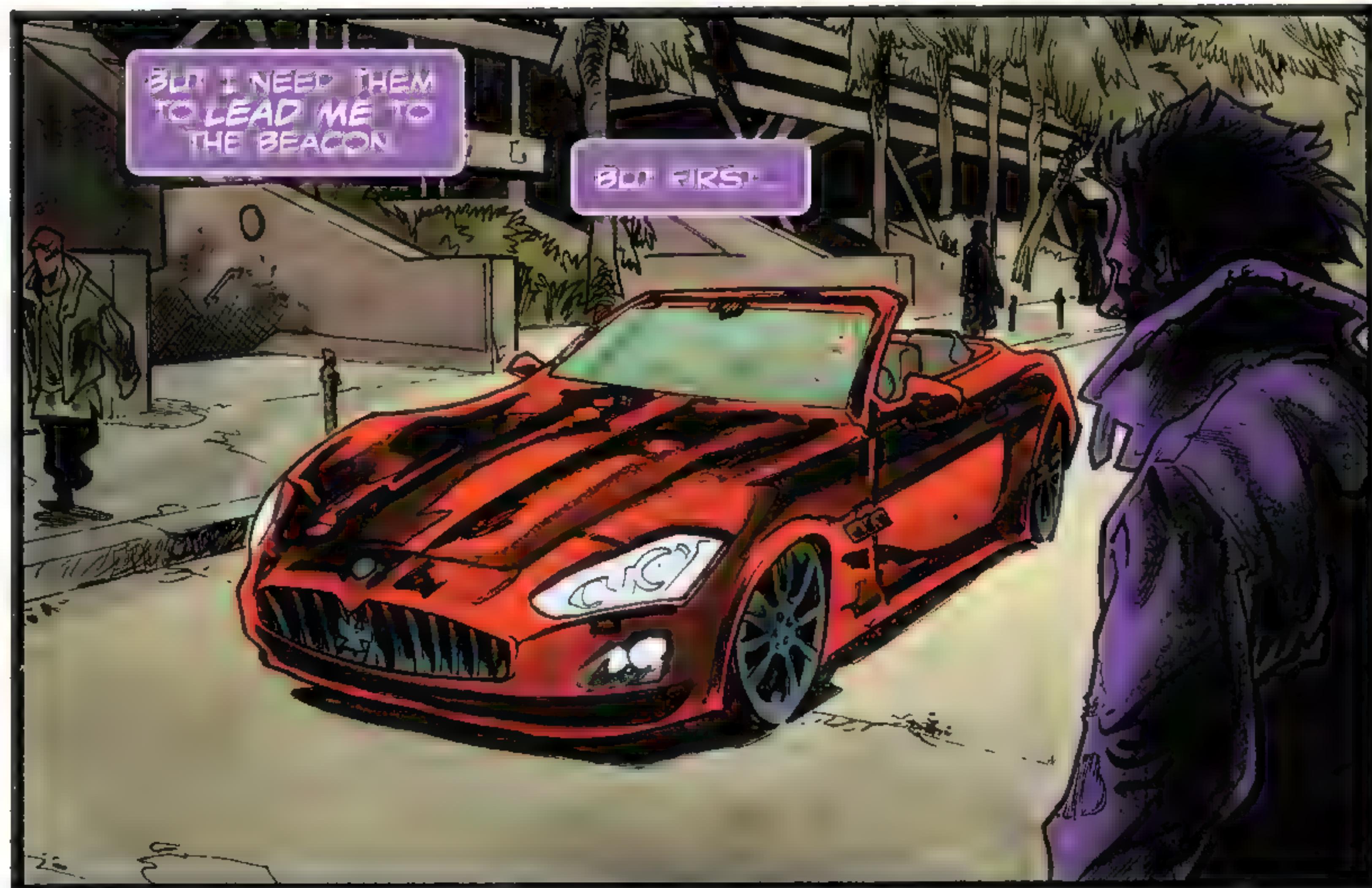


MEANWHILE...



NET ARROW ALWAYS GOOD IN A BIND





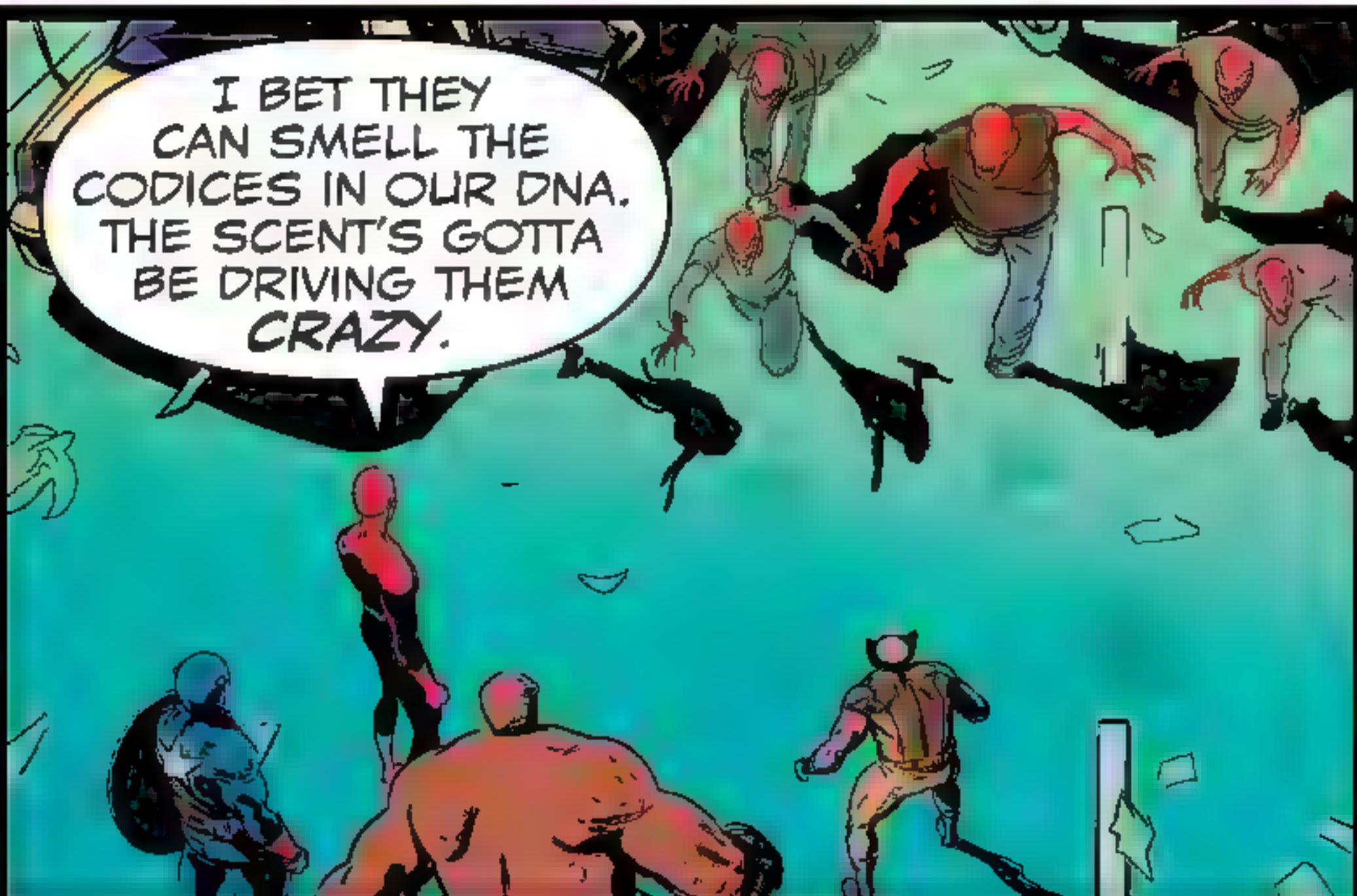
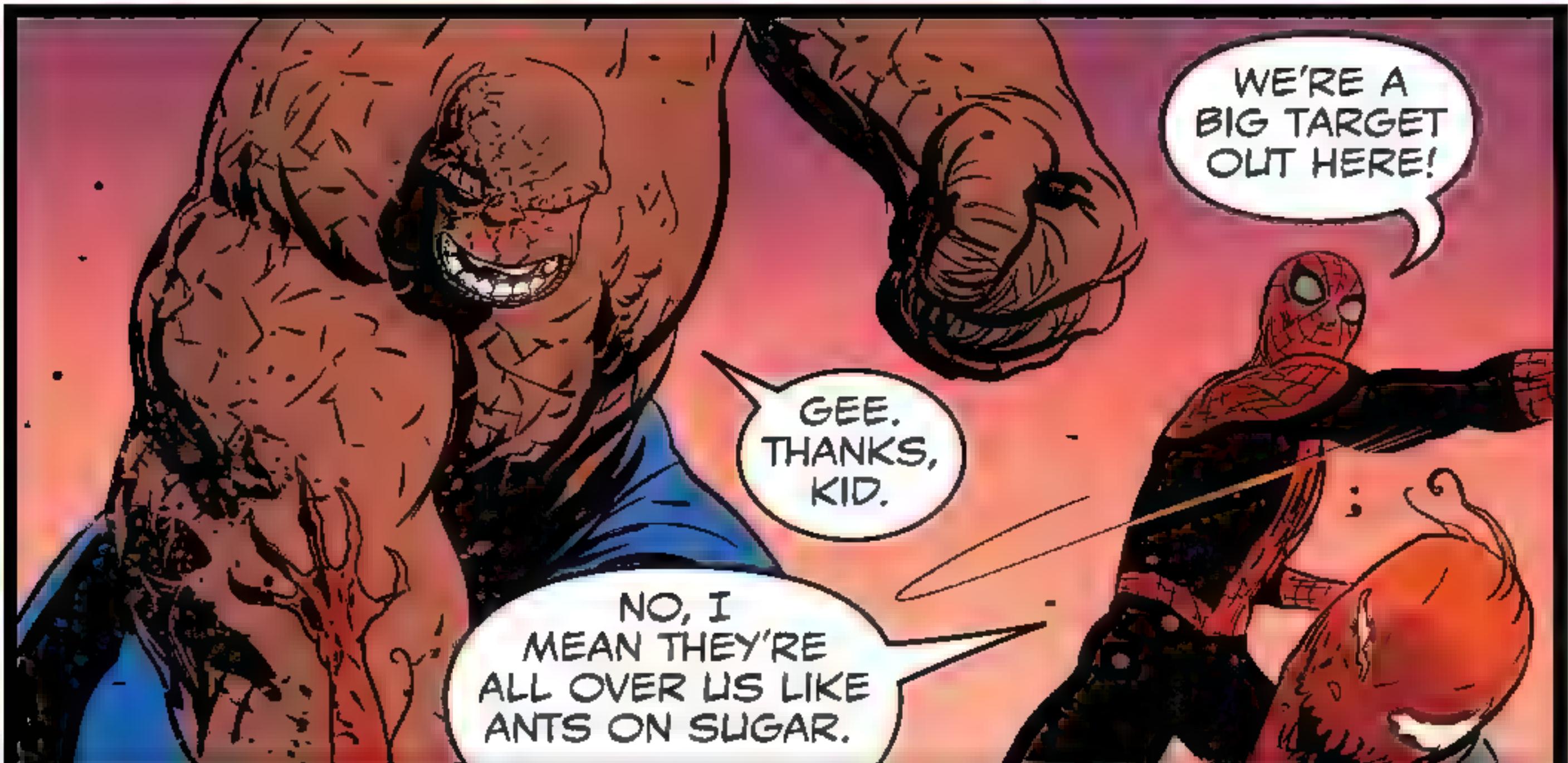
THIRD AVENUE BRIDGE. THE BRONX.

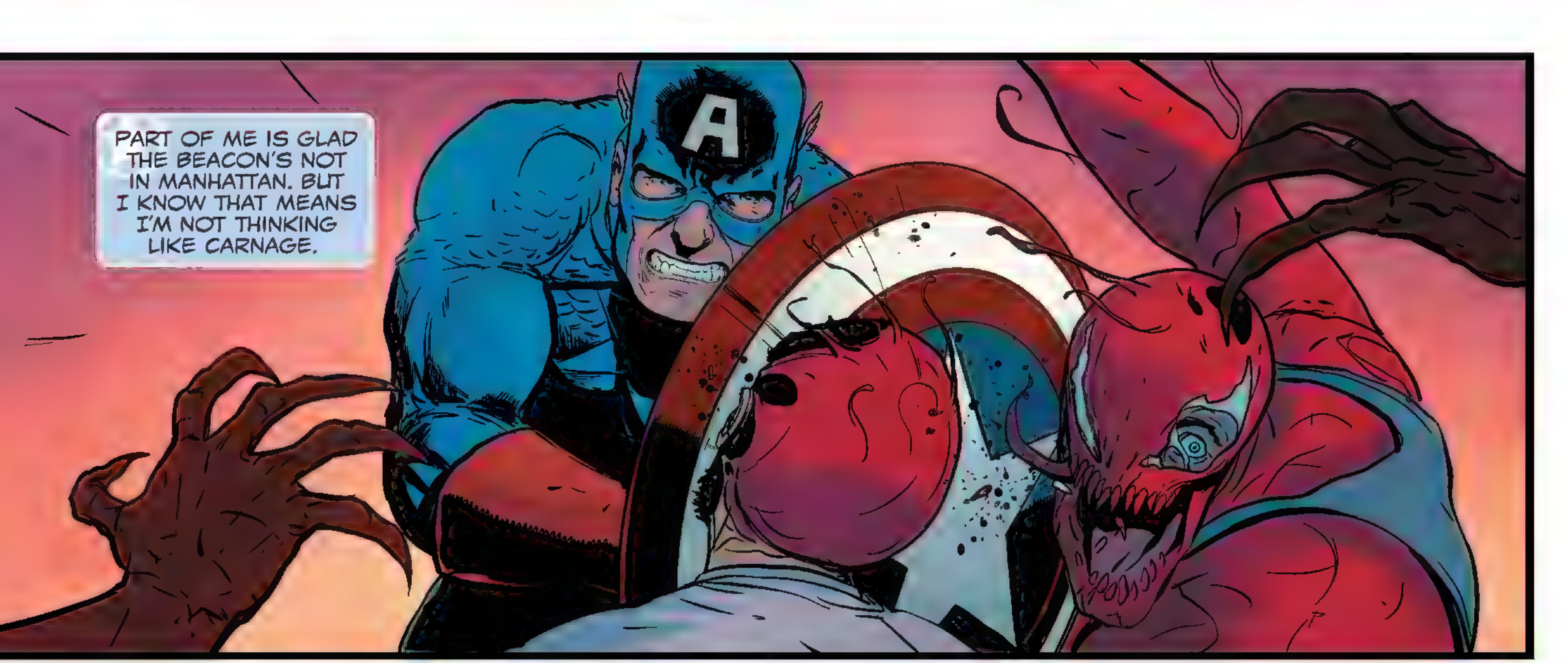
EYES AND
EARS OPEN OUT
HERE, GUYS.

OUR JOB
IS TO KEEP
CIVILIANS
SAFE.

AWFUL
QUIET.

AW,
MAN...





PART OF ME IS GLAD THE BEACON'S NOT IN MANHATTAN. BUT I KNOW THAT MEANS I'M NOT THINKING LIKE CARNAGE.

THERE'S A REASON CLETUS KASADY IS DOING ALL THIS. HE WANTS US TO BELIEVE NEW YORK IS LOST.



HE WANTS US TO LOSE HOPE. BUT HE'S ALWAYS BEEN DELUSIONAL.

EVEN IF THIS TIME HE'S GUIDED BY SOME STRANGE SENSE OF HALLOWED BELIEF IN A GOD.

HIS VERSION OF FAITH.



HE DOESN'T REALIZE NEW YORK WILL NEVER BE LOST AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE. WE'LL STOP HIM. WE'LL SAVE EVERYONE.

BECAUSE IN CARNAGE'S NEW YORK...



SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

PLACE IS
A GHOST
TOWN.

THE
BUENA
MAMA

WHATEVER'S
HAPPENING HERE
HAS BEEN HAPPENING
FOR A BIT

HEAR 'EM
BEFORE THEY
SEE ME

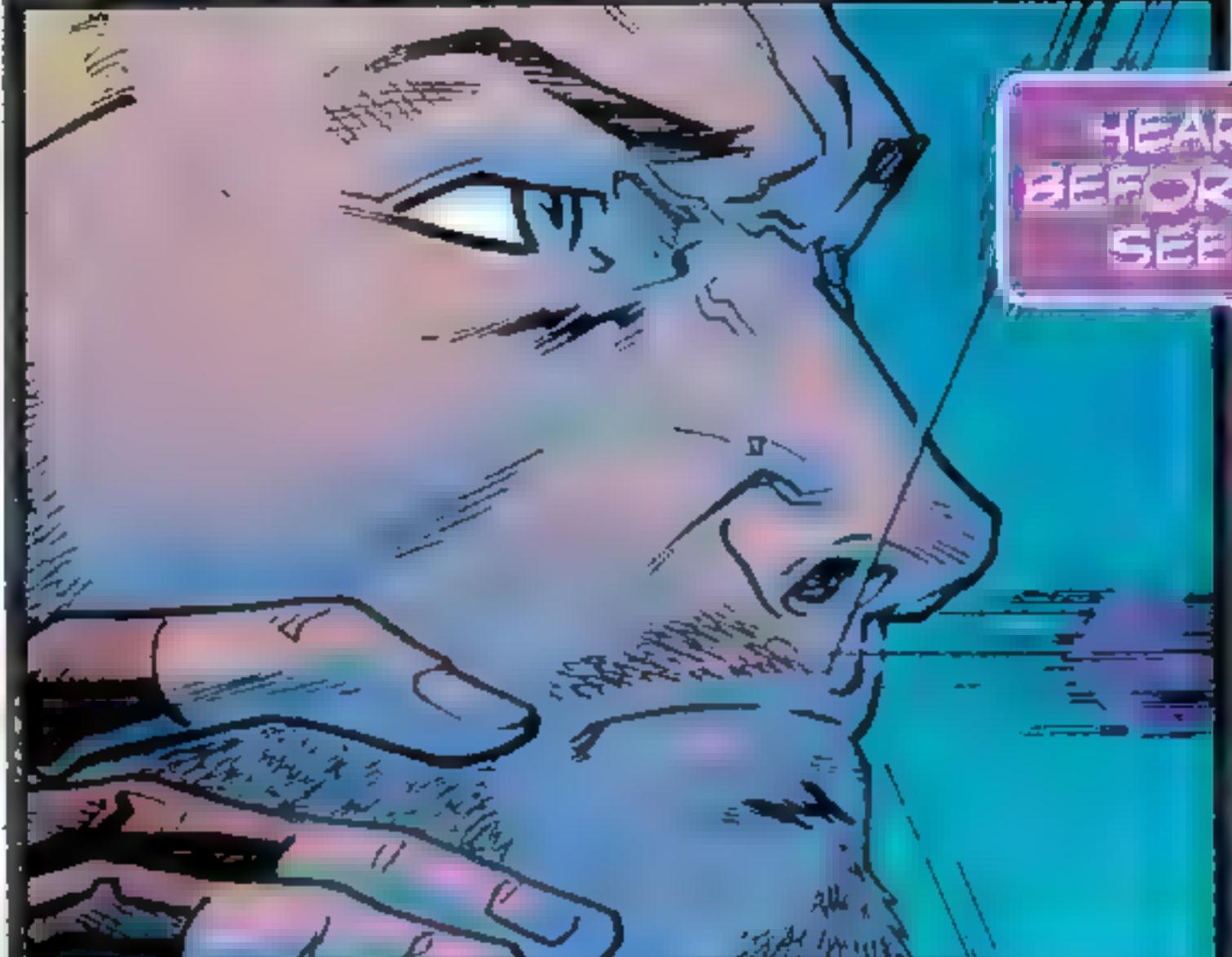
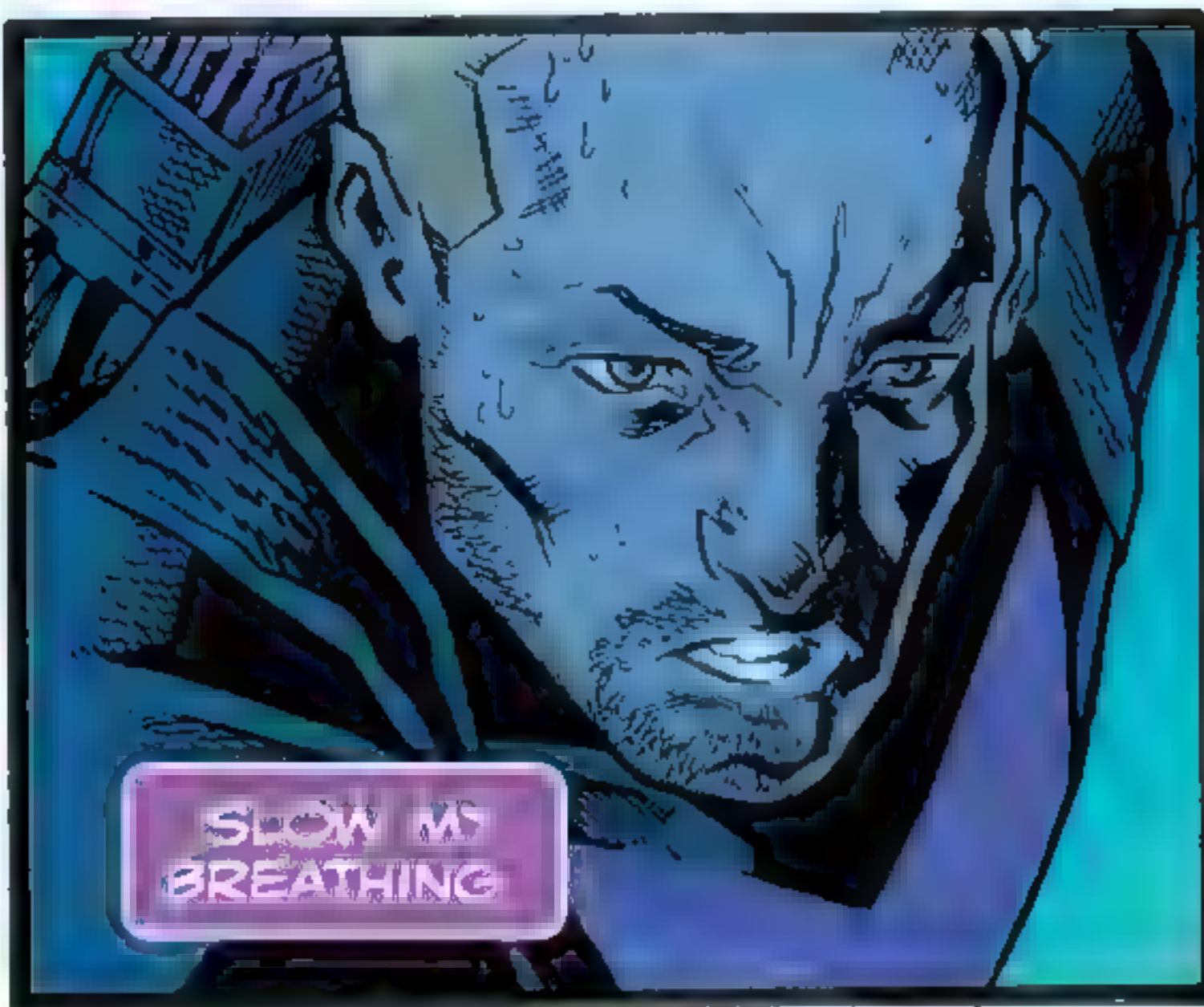
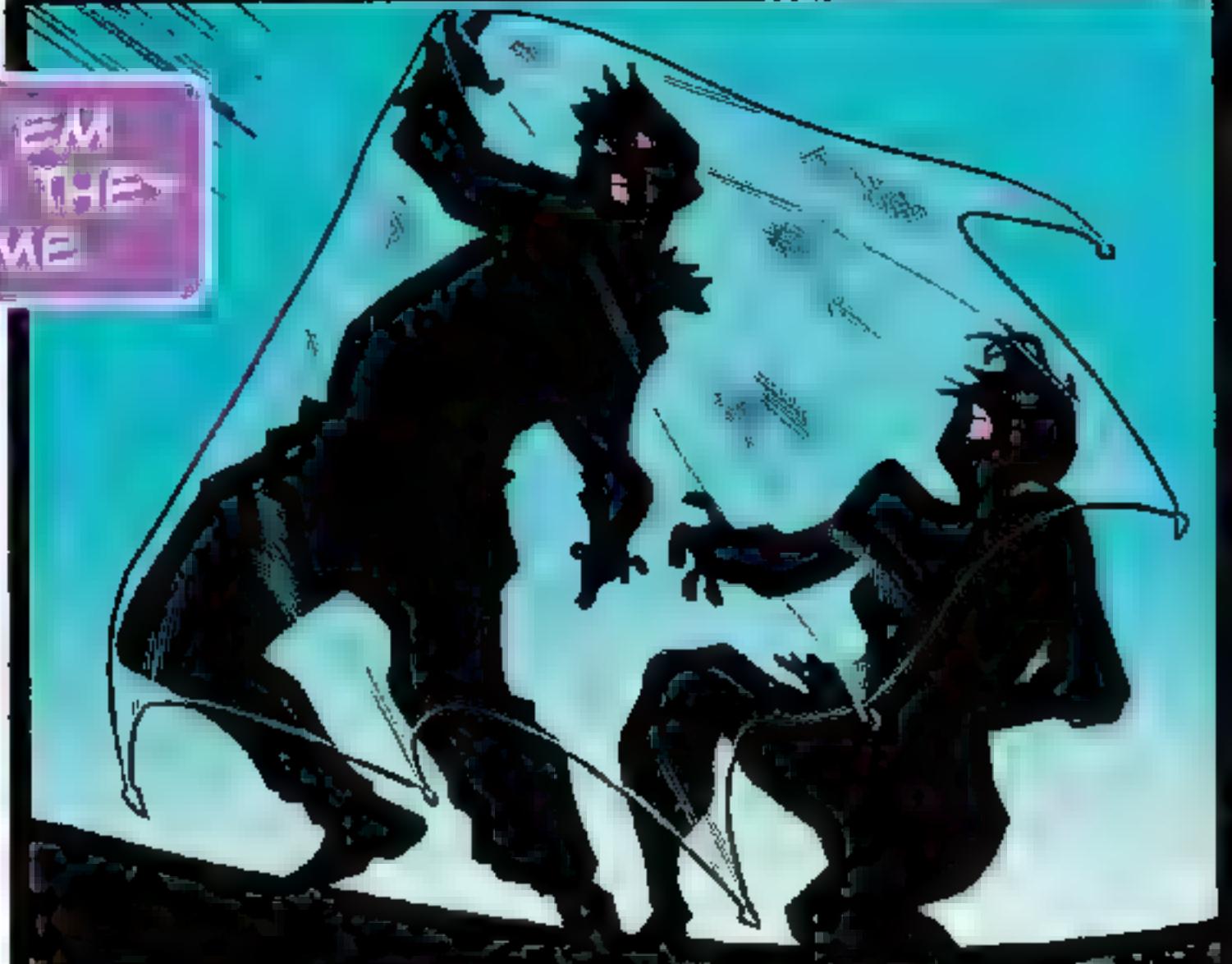
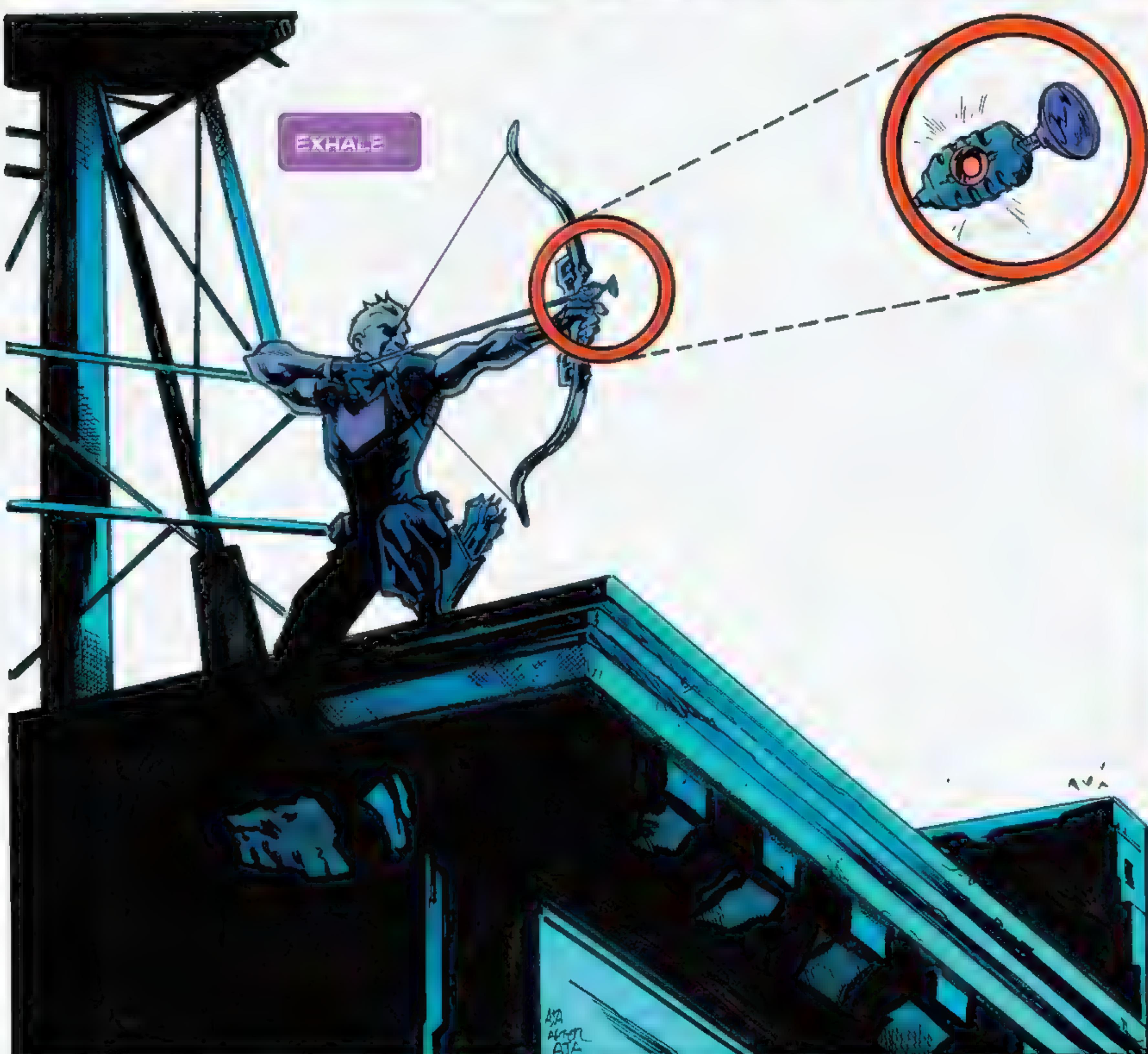
GOT TO GET
A BETTER VIEW
OF THE CITY

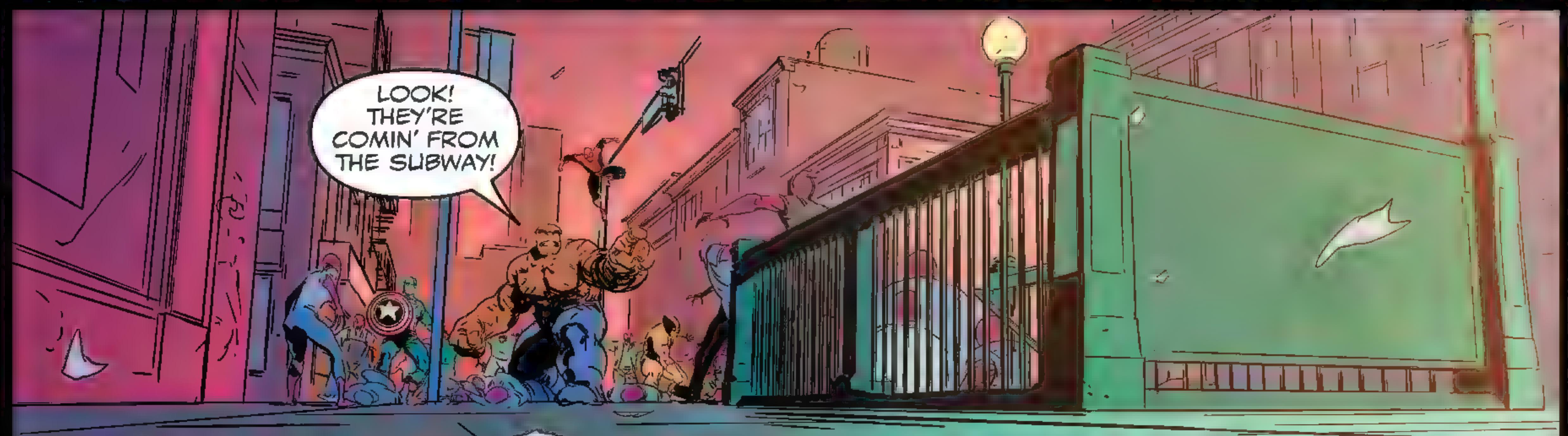
SLOW MY
BREATHING

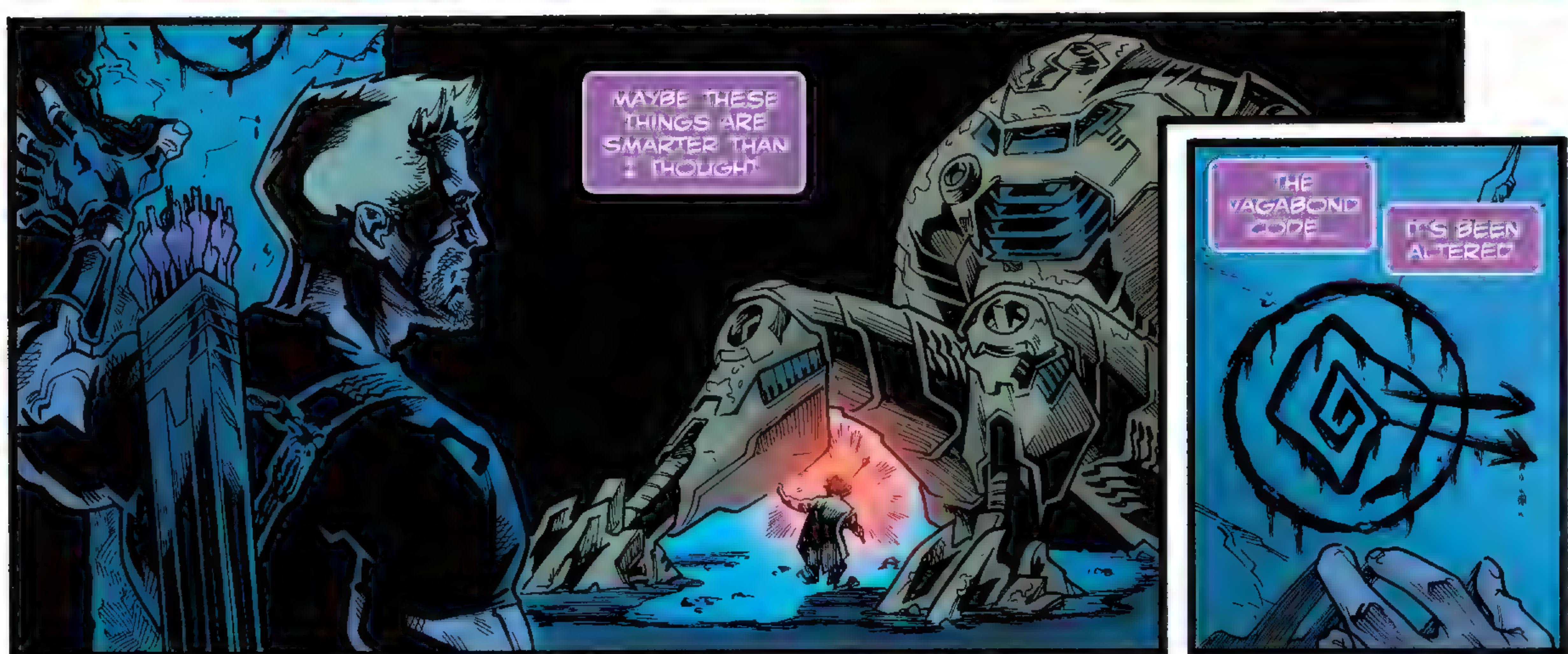
EXHALE

TRACKING
ARROW

NOW I JUST
GOT TO FOLLOW
THE CLOWN BACK
TO THE BEACON









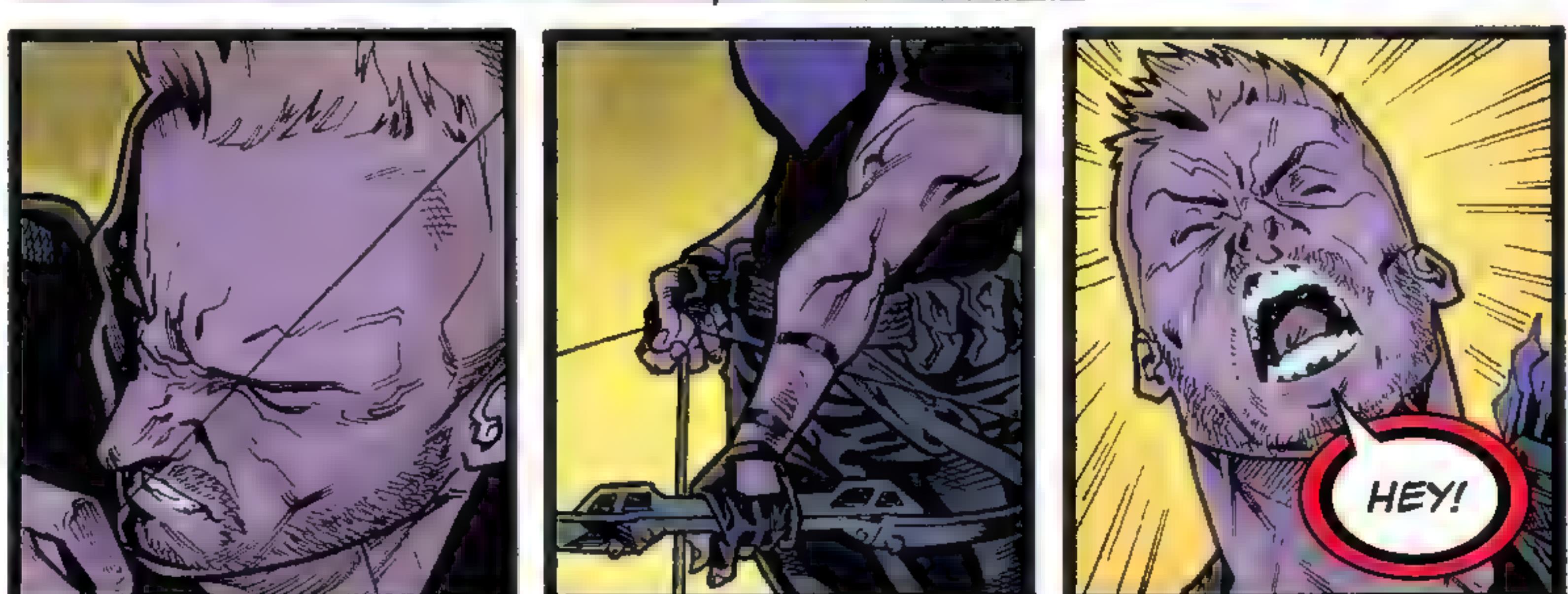
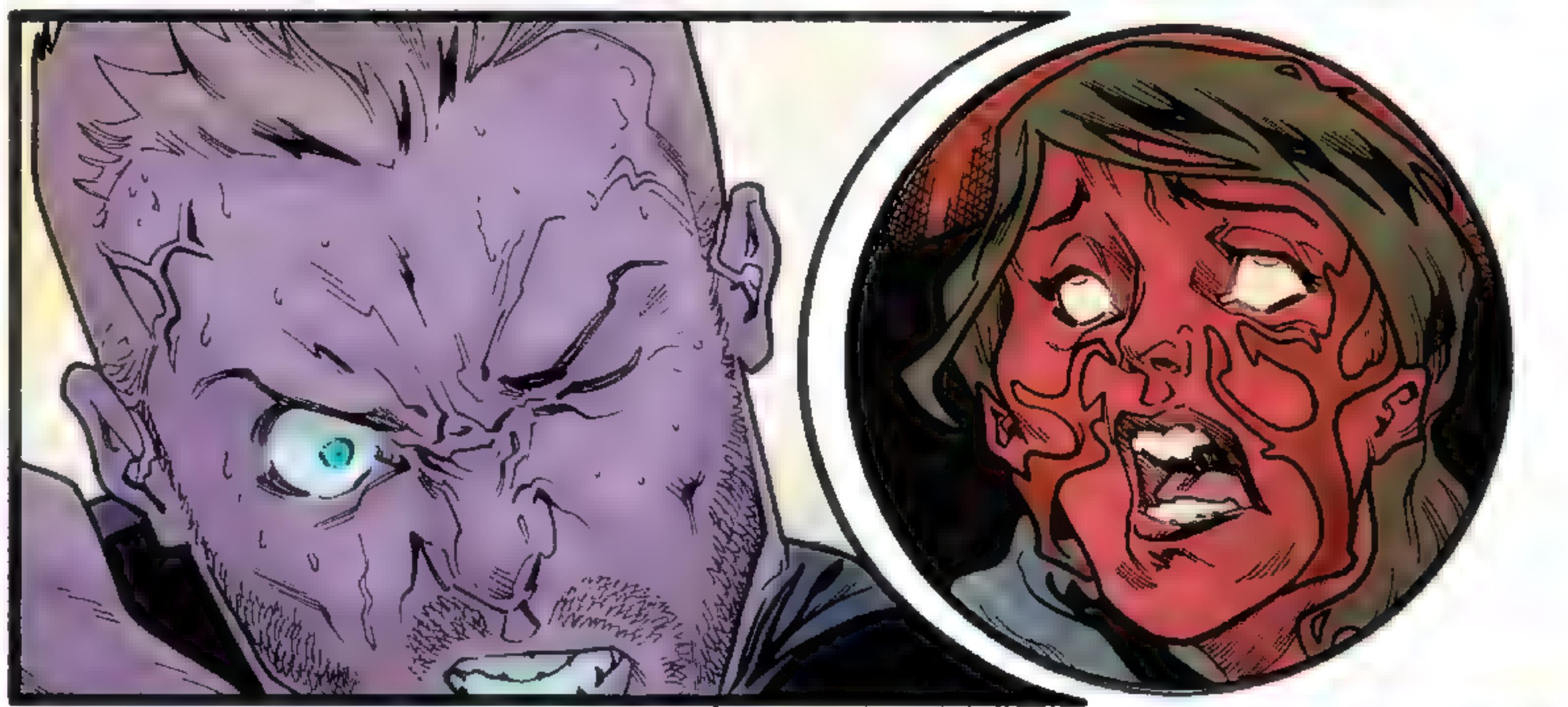
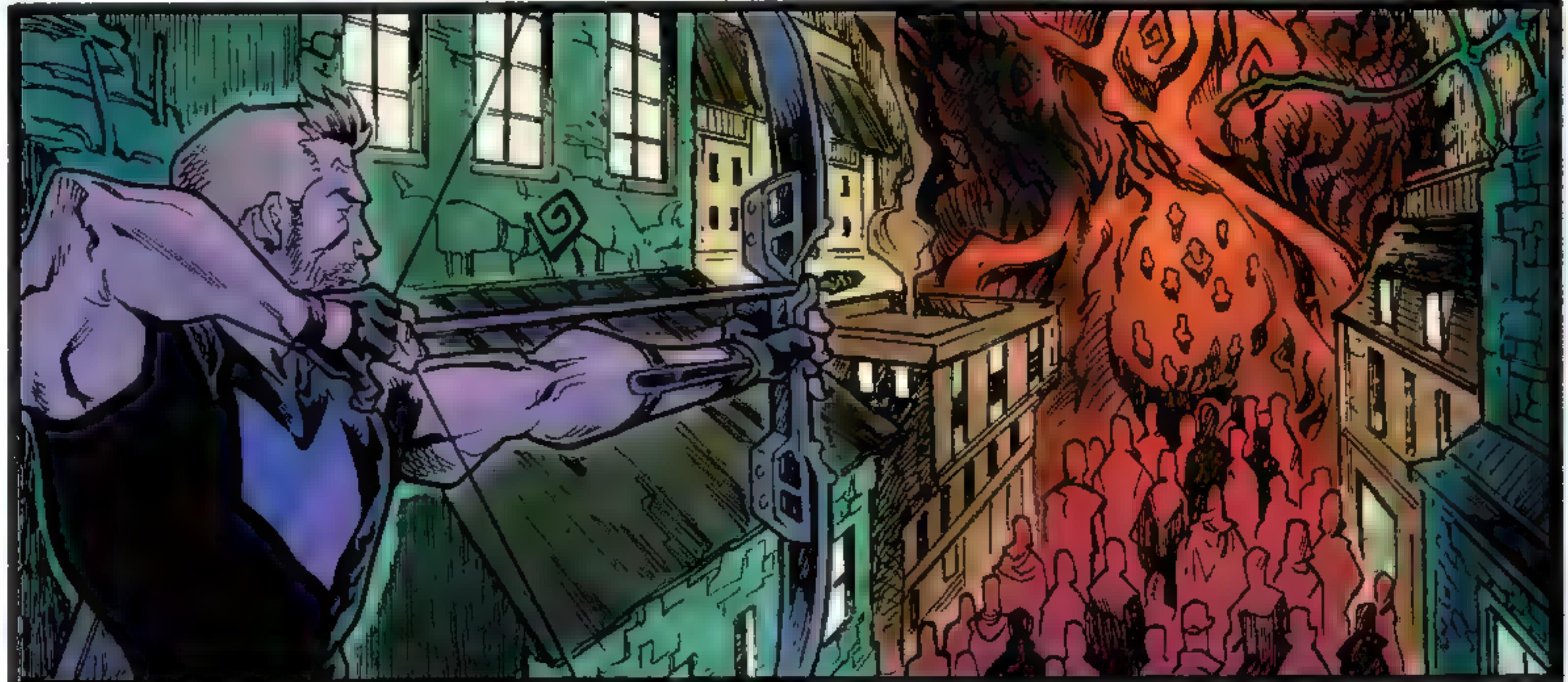
IN SOME KINDA
UNDERGROUND
CITY BENEATH
SAN FRANCISCO

WHO'DA
THUNK?

* -GUESS HAWKEYE HASN'T
READ THE CLASSIC VENOM:
LETHAL PROTECTOR OR
JANUARY'S WEB OF VENOM:
VENOM UNLEASHED! --DEVIN







MEANWHILE...

THAT'S THE BEACON, ALL RIGHT.

WE JUST HAVE TO SHUT IT DOWN.



THE ONE IN THE CENTER. I CAN SMELL IT. HE'S THE ONE. WE END HIM. WE END THIS.



SO WE FIGHT.

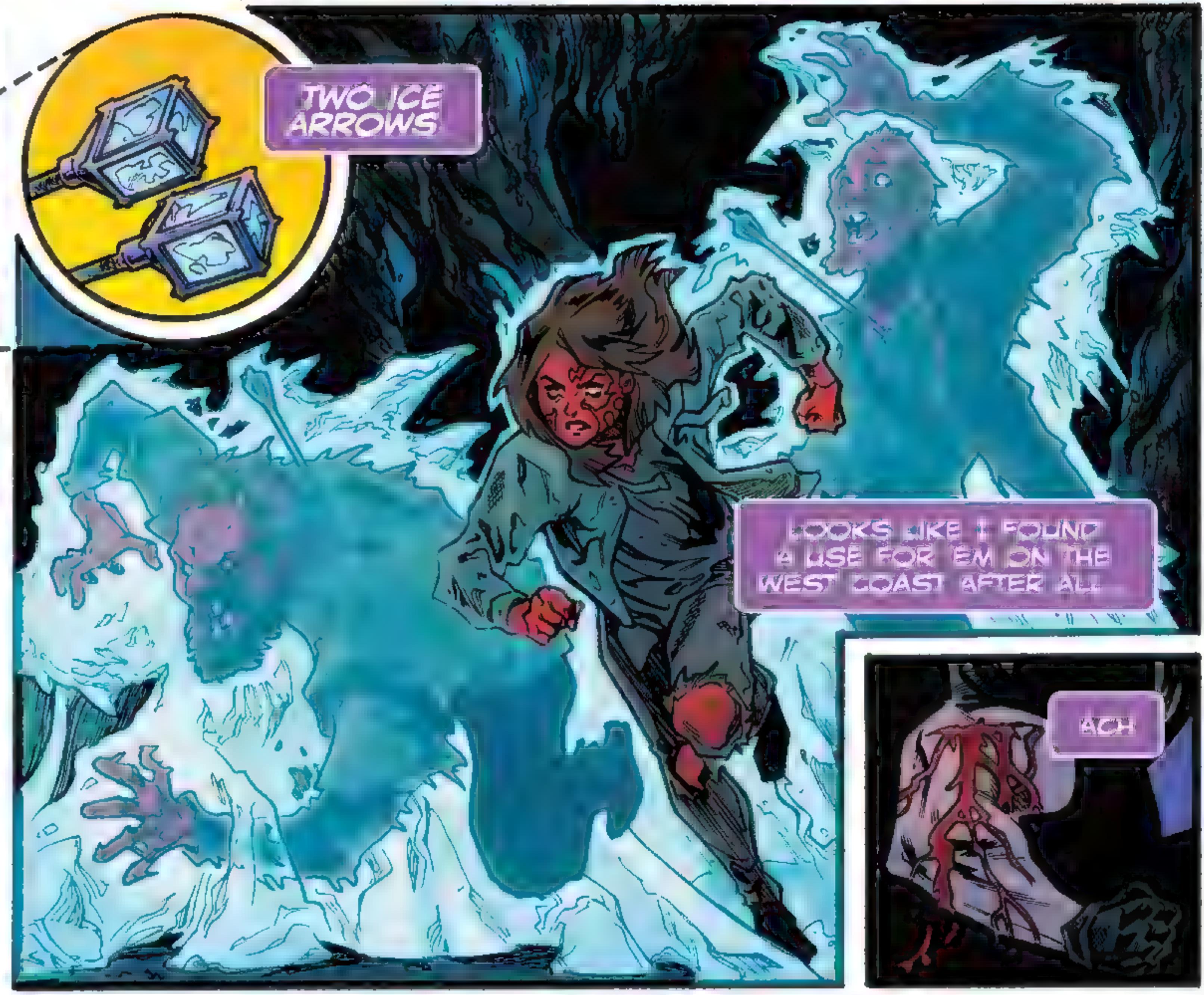
BUT THERE'S
NO GLORY
IN THIS.

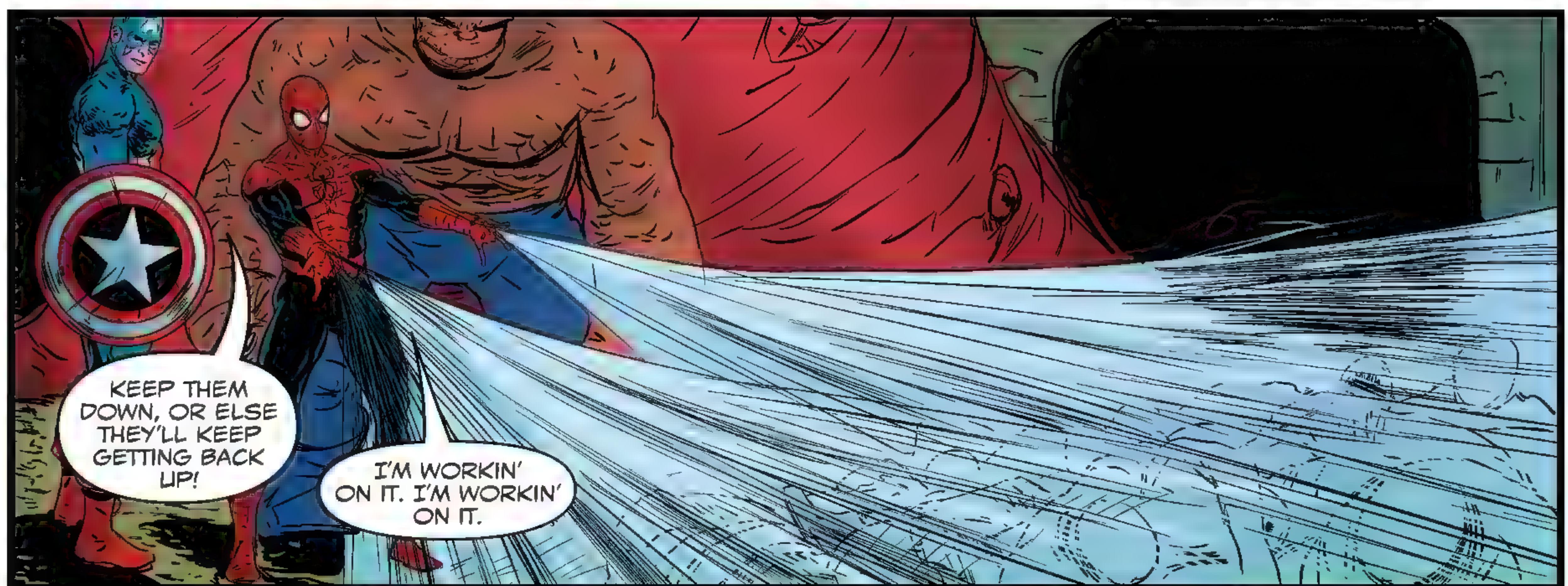
NO
HONOR.

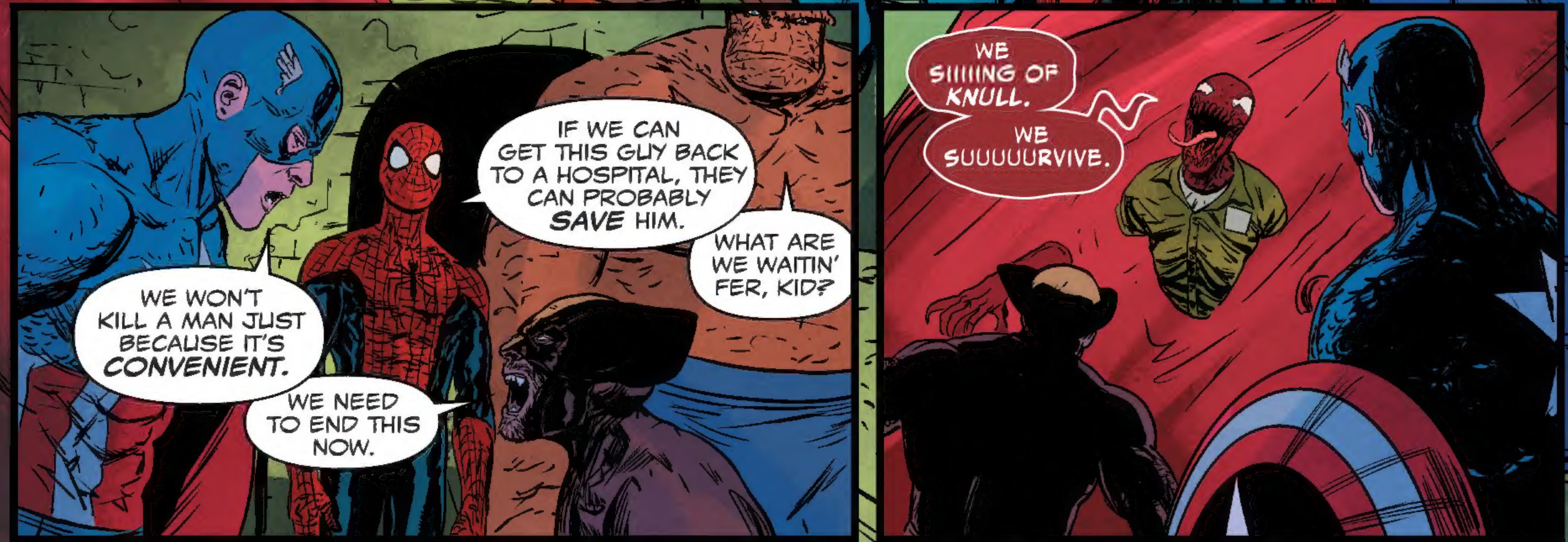
NO
MORALS.

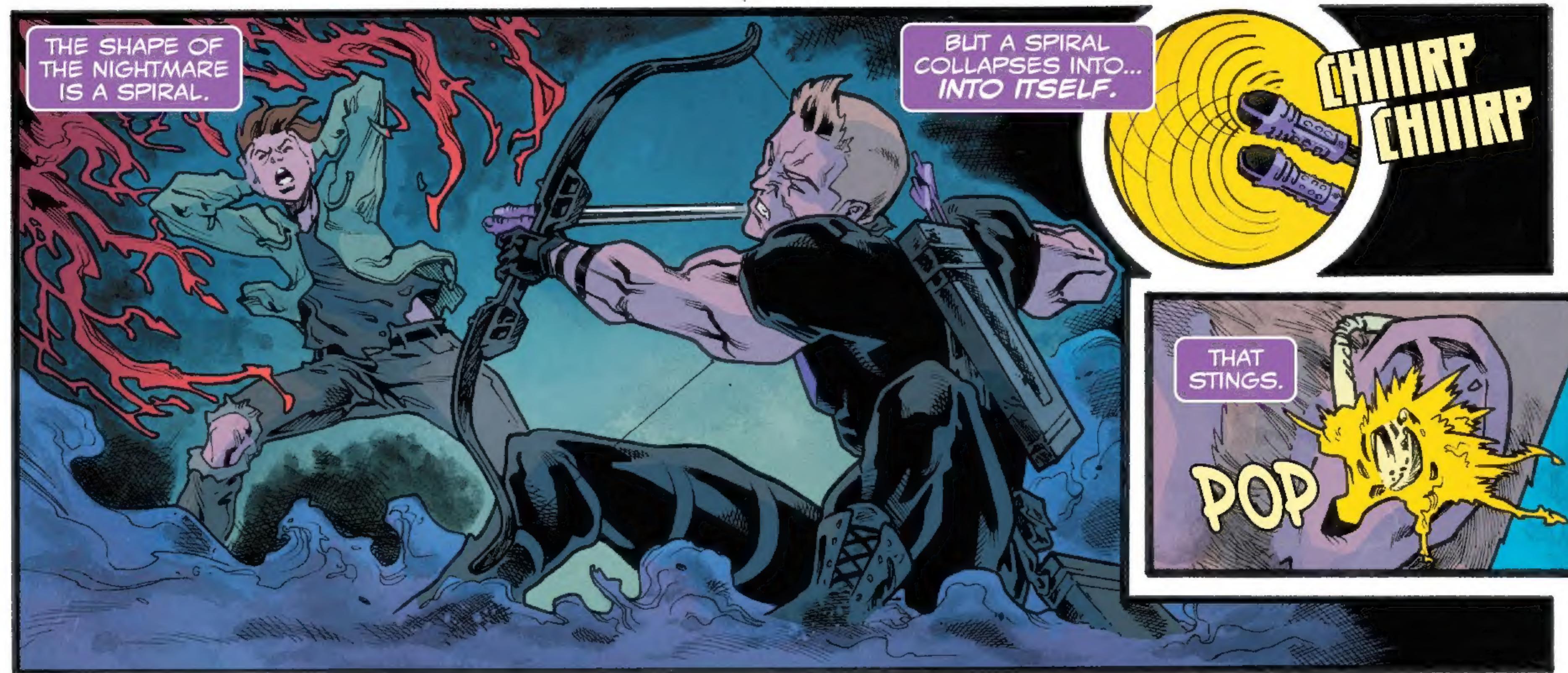
ONLY
NECESSITY.













REX STRICKLAND'S SAFE HOUSE. VENOM HQ.

WITH THE BEACONS DOWN
ON BOTH COASTS,
WE'RE CLOSE TO
ENDING THIS
NIGHTMARE.

AS SOON
AS VENOM'S
BACK, WE NEED TO
MOVE ON CARNAGE.
TAKE HIM DOWN
AND FINISH THIS
FOR GOOD.

IF THERE'S A SECOND
PART TO CONFRONTING
FEAR, TO CONQUERING
TERROR...

...IT'S BEING
CONTENT
WITH THE
UNKNOWN.

IT'S KNOWING THAT
SOMETIMES THE BEST
ANSWER YOU'LL GET AS
TO WHY SOMETHING
TERRIBLE HAPPENED...

...IS NO
ANSWER
AT ALL.

YOU HAVE TO LET
THE MYSTERY BE.

BUT THAT
PART I'M LESS
GOOD AT...

HEY, CAP.
HOW YA
HOLDING
UP?

VVT
VVT

ACTUALLY,
CAN'T HEAR YA
ANYWAY. JOB'S
DONE...

HAWKEYE
DDDD

...AND I'M
ON MY WAY TO
NEW YORK.

TO BE
CONTINUED...
IN VENOM
#19!